

IN THE CLAIMS

1-32 (canceled)

33. (currently amended) A sensor package
comprising:

a housing having an upper housing surface and a
well extending into the housing through the upper housing
surface, wherein the upper housing surface defines a
first plane; and,

a force sensing element having an upper element
surface and a lower element surface, wherein the upper
element surface defines a second plane, wherein the force
sensing element is supported by the housing such that the
lower element surface is within the well and such that
the first and second planes are coplanar, The sensor
package of claim 32 wherein the housing has a connection
pad within the well, wherein the force sensing element
has a connection pad, and wherein the connection pads of
the housing and the force sensing element are
electrically coupled when the force sensing element is
supported by the shelf of the housing.

34. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 33 wherein a conductive adhesive electrically couples the connection pads of the housing and the force sensing element.

35. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 34 further comprising a membrane covering the upper surfaces of the housing and the force sensing element in order to provide electrical isolation of the sensor package.

36. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 34 further comprising a membrane covering the upper surfaces of the housing and the force sensing element in order to provide environmental protection for the sensor package.

37. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 34 wherein the shelf has an adhesive reservoir to hold the conductive adhesive.

38. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 34 wherein the shelf is arranged to prevent the conductive adhesive from migrating around an edge of the force sensing element and causing the force sensing element to electrically short.

39. (currently amended) A sensor package comprising:

a housing having an upper housing surface and a well extending into the housing through the upper housing surface, wherein the upper housing surface defines a first plane; and,

a force sensing element having an upper element surface and a lower element surface, wherein the upper element surface defines a second plane, wherein the force sensing element is supported by the housing such that the lower element surface is within the well and such that the first and second planes are coplanar, ~~The sensor package of claim 30~~ wherein the housing has a connection pad, wherein the force sensing element has a connection pad, and wherein the connection pads of the housing and the force sensing element are electrically coupled.

40. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 39 wherein a conductive adhesive electrically couples the connection pads of the housing and the force sensing element.

41. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 40 further comprising a membrane covering the upper surfaces of the housing and the force sensing element in order to provide electrical isolation of the sensor package.

42. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 40 further comprising a membrane covering the upper surfaces of the housing and the force sensing element in order to provide environmental protection for the sensor package.

43. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 40 wherein the conductive adhesive is held in an adhesive reservoir of the housing.

44. (currently amended) The sensor package of claim ~~30~~ 39 further comprising a membrane covering the upper surfaces of the housing and the force sensing element in order to provide electrical isolation of the sensor package.

45. (currently amended) The sensor package of claim ~~30~~ 39 further comprising a membrane covering the upper surfaces of the housing and the force sensing element in order to provide environmental protection for the sensor package.

46. (canceled)

47. (currently amended) A sensor package comprising:

a housing having an upper housing surface, a well extending into the housing through the upper housing surface, and a shelf; and,

a force sensing element having an upper element surface, wherein the force sensing element is supported by the shelf of the housing such that the force sensing element extends into the well, such that the upper housing surface and the upper element surface are

coplanar, and such that the upper element surface and the upper housing surface face outwardly from the housing,
~~The sensor package of claim 46~~ wherein the housing has a connection pad within the well, wherein the force sensing element has a connection pad, and wherein the connection pads of the housing and the force sensing element are electrically coupled together.

48. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 47 wherein a conductive adhesive electrically couples the connection pads of the housing and the force sensing element.

49. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 48 wherein the shelf is arranged to prevent the conductive adhesive from migrating around an edge of the force sensing element and causing the force sensing element to electrically short.

50. (previously presented) The sensor package of claim 48 wherein the shelf has an adhesive reservoir to hold the conductive adhesive.

51. (currently amended) The sensor package of claim ~~46~~ 47 further comprising a membrane covering the upper surfaces of the housing and the force sensing element in order to provide electrical isolation of the sensor package.

52. (currently amended) The sensor package of claim ~~46~~ 47 further comprising a membrane covering the upper surfaces of the housing and the force sensing element in order to provide environmental protection for the sensor package.

53-54 (canceled)

55. (currently amended) A method of packaging a force sensing element, wherein the force sensing element has an outwardly facing element surface, wherein the outwardly facing element surface has an edge therearound, and wherein the method comprises:

a) applying the force sensing element to a housing part having an outwardly facing housing surface so that the edge of the outwardly facing element surface abuts an edge of the outwardly facing housing surface; and,

b) attaching the force sensing element to the housing part, ~~The method of claim 53~~ wherein the housing part has a connection pad, wherein the force sensing element has a connection pad, and wherein the attaching of the force sensing element to the housing part comprises adhesively binding the connection pads of the housing part and the force sensing element together so that the force sensing element is attached to the housing part and so that the connection pads of the housing part and the force sensing element are electrically coupled together.

56. (currently amended) A method of packaging a force sensing element, wherein the force sensing element has an outwardly facing element surface, wherein the outwardly facing element surface has an edge therearound, and wherein the method comprises:

a) applying the force sensing element to a housing part having an outwardly facing housing surface so that the edge of the outwardly facing element surface abuts an edge of the outwardly facing housing surface;

b) attaching the force sensing element to the housing part; and,

~~The method of claim 53 further comprising~~

covering the outwardly facing surfaces of the housing part and the force sensing element with a membrane in order to provide electrical isolation of the force sensing element.

57. (currently amended) A sensor package comprising:

a housing having an upper housing surface and a well extending into the housing through the upper housing surface, wherein the upper housing surface defines a first plane; and,

a force sensing element having an upper element surface and a lower element surface, wherein the upper element surface defines a second plane, wherein the force sensing element is supported by the housing such that the lower element surface is within the well and such that the first and second planes are coplanar; and,

~~The method of claim 53 further comprising~~

covering the outwardly facing surfaces of the housing part and the sensing element with a membrane in order to provide environmental protection for the force sensing element.